

Paris Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> 1776

I was this Morning informed of the Arrival of Mr. Lee & that he would  
be in Paris tomorrow, this was surprising to me as I knew of no particular  
aff. that might call him here & considering the extreme Jealousy of the British  
Ministry at this time, & that Mr. Lee was Agent for the United Colonies in Gt.  
Britain & known to be such I could have wish'd, unless he has received some  
particular intelligence from the United Colonies that he had suspended his Visit  
as I know not otherwise, how he can favor me in my Affairs now (with  
Gratitude I speak) in as favorable a cause as the Situation of the Times  
will admit, I should not however have mentioned his coming here  
to you, were I not apprehensive that the extreme Jealousy of the  
British Ministry & their Agents here, will excite some Complaints in which  
I may be misrepresented, & Attempts made to prejudice my Affairs, therefore  
judged it most prudent to inform you of all I knew of the Matter & that I  
had on being told of his coming desired his Friend to advise him not to  
any Consideration to appear in public. — The British Ministry are  
resolved on something I know not what for in Addition to the Spies  
they already have in Paris they have given one Col. Mercer a Virginian a  
Pension of four Hundred pounds by Yr. M<sup>ty</sup>. on condition of his receiving it  
in France which is in effect to be rewarded and exiled at the same inst. &  
is one of those Mysteries w<sup>ch</sup> explain themselves — I have long wish'd  
for one hour's conversation with you, but knowing how closely I was  
watched I have deferred it, but should have come out this Day  
had I not understood that it was somewhat of a public Day at  
Versailles, but if agreeable to you I will wait on you on Monday  
Morning privately at your own House at Nine o'clock, possibly  
my Business may not require an interview with his Excellency

Yr<sup>h</sup>



it is necessary, I should inform you, of something through  
particular Instructions must arrive soon, as well as intelligence  
of the utmost importance from the United Colonies. I leave you to imagine  
in the meantime what an anxious situation mine is — The  
situation of the two Armies is well known to me & the event of  
the action between them appears to me very doubtful. This is  
certain that Victory on the part of the British troops will tend  
far from being decisive that it will be in part a Defeat on  
the other side it must be decisive if in favor of the Colonies  
a little assistance arriving in season will be of the last  
importance, let Victory declare on either side, & I am happy  
in that view — if the time I mention is not agreeable to You.  
You will oblige me by naming another & in writing me one  
line just to acknowledge the Rec<sup>d</sup> of this

I am most respectfully  
Yours &c D



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Copy of a Letter to M<sup>r</sup>.  
Gen<sup>l</sup>. at Versailles

Paris August 23<sup>d</sup>. 1776  
Brig<sup>e</sup>

I D. the Lett. sent wrong  
dated by one Day —